

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani
Monica Simon

DATE: July 20, 2001

RE: Consumers Linked to Primary Health Care Services

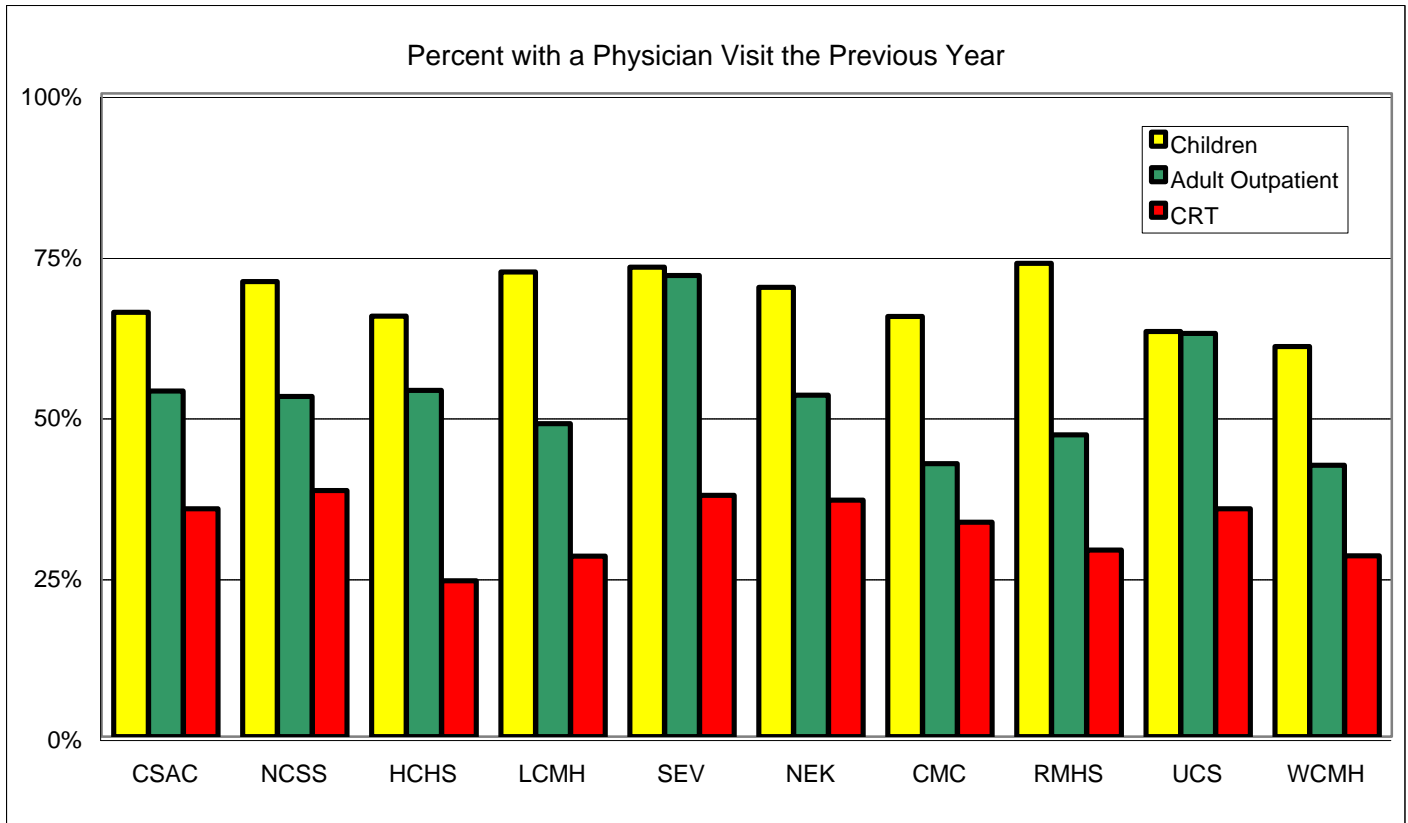
The degree to which consumers of mental health services are linked to physical health services is one of the measures required by the Sixteen State Performance Indicator Project. This indicator is based on the belief that, "People with mental illness have relatively poor access to general health care. This often compounds their mental health problems and makes recovery difficult." The specific measure used for this indicator is whether the mental health consumer has had face-to-face contact with a primary care physician during the previous year. The project provides for measuring this indicator based on consumer self-report or analysis of administrative databases. Vermont has chosen to use administrative databases rather than self-report for three reasons. First, we believe administrative records provide a more accurate record than a person's memory. Second, administrative records provide a complete enumeration of the whole population and avoid the statistical uncertainty associated with sample surveys. Finally, analysis of administrative databases is much more economical than large-scale data collection efforts.

Rates of utilization of physical health services were measured for clients of three community programs: Children's Services Programs, Adult Outpatient Programs, and Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) Programs for adults with severe and persistent mental illness. In each case, the analysis focused on clients less than 65 years of age who were covered by the State's Medicaid program and physician visits that were reimbursed by Medicaid. The analysis consisted of a direct linkage of Medicaid claims files for CMHC services and Medicaid claims files for physician visits. This analysis included 99% of all CRT clients, 74% of all Children's Services clients, and 56% of all Adult Outpatient clients. The attached table and graph summarize the results of this analysis.

As you will see, clients of Children's Services Programs had the highest rate of access to general health care services (68% statewide), clients of Adult Outpatient Programs ranked second (54%), and clients of CRT Programs had the lowest utilization rate (32%). This pattern was consistent throughout the state. The ongoing Behavioral Risk Survey conducted by the Vermont Department of Health indicates that about 68% of all adults visited a physician during the last year. This analysis indicates that Adult Outpatient clients had somewhat lower utilization rates and that CRT clients had substantially lower utilization rates than members of the general population of the state.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to see the results of any additional analyses of these data. As always, you can contact us by e-mail at jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us or by voice at 802-241-2638.

**Vermont Clients
of Children's, Adult Outpatient, and Community Rehabilitation Treatment Programs
with a Physician Visit During the Previous Year***



Clinic	Total Number			With Physician Visits					
				Number			Percent		
	Children	Adult Outpatient	CRT	Children	Adult Outpatient	CRT	Children	Adult Outpatient	CRT
CSAC	382	242	113	252	130	40	66%	54%	35%
NCSS	410	435	183	290	230	70	71%	53%	38%
HCHS	534	325	520	349	175	126	65%	54%	24%
LCMH	144	222	114	104	108	32	72%	49%	28%
SEV	826	438	344	603	314	129	73%	72%	38%
NEK	547	371	332	382	197	122	70%	53%	37%
CMC	303	132	93	198	56	31	65%	42%	33%
RMHS	227	162	255	167	76	74	74%	47%	29%
UCS	173	142	158	109	89	56	63%	63%	35%
WCMH	366	422	320	222	178	90	61%	42%	28%
Overall	3,912	2,891	2,432	2,689	1,553	770	69%	54%	32%

Analysis includes clients under 65 with Medicaid coverage on June 30, 2000. These include 74% of all Children Services clients, 56% of all AOP clients, and 99% of all CRT clients.

*Based on analysis of Medicaid paid claims and DDMHS client databases.